

## KCTCS EVALUATION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND 1998-2000

Agenda Item D-3  
November 13, 2000

At its September 27, 1999, meeting, the Council approved the Kentucky Community and Technical College System proposal requesting \$12 million from the 1998-2000 Postsecondary Workforce Development Trust Fund. The Postsecondary Workforce Development Trust Fund criteria approved by the Council November 9, 1998, required the KCTCS to match the state's money dollar for dollar. At the September 18, 2000, Council meeting, the KCTCS stated that it would present performance measures for projects funded by the Postsecondary Workforce Development Trust Fund to the Council by November 1, 2000. The KCTCS has reported on the use of the 1998-2000 Postsecondary Workforce Trust Fund money and on the performance of the trust fund projects funded to date.

The KCTCS proposed to use the \$12 million to fund four initiatives:

Industry-initiated workforce development and educational programs	\$4 million
College-initiated workforce development and educational programs	\$3.5 million
Statewide implementation and integration of information systems	\$4 million
Establishment of an external fundraising software system	\$0.5 million

The KCTCS reports that it has obligated \$9.9 million of the trust fund appropriation and provided \$12.6 million in matching funds since September 1999. It has obligated \$1,924,300 (48 percent) of the allotment for industry-initiated workforce development and educational programs, \$3,452,800 (99 percent) of the allotment for college-initiated workforce development and educational programs, \$4 million (100 percent) of the allotment for statewide implementation and integration of information systems, and \$500,000 (100 percent) of the allotment for the fundraising program.

While moving swiftly on the other three allotments, the KCTCS has deliberately taken more time creating the infrastructure needed for the complex industry-initiated training projects. The KCTCS calls this infrastructure the Kentucky Workforce Investment Network System (KY WINS). The KCTCS is building a network of KY WINS field positions and has created workforce training data collection and tracking systems. Collaboration with other state agencies was a cornerstone of the KCTCS' September 27, 1999, proposal; it has executed a memorandum of agreement with the Cabinet for Workforce Development and is negotiating a memorandum of agreement with the Cabinet for Economic Development. Working with the Cabinet for Workforce Development, the Department of Education, and Empower Kentucky, the KCTCS is engaged in a statewide job profiling and assessment project using a nationally recognized system produced by the not-for-profit educational company ACT Inc.

The first five industry-initiated training projects—all referred to the KCTCS by local or state economic development agencies—are with companies relocating to Madisonville (two firms), Hazard, Russell Springs, and Henderson. KY WINS played an important role in the decision of these companies to move or start up in Kentucky and to create 1,283 jobs paying 34 percent

more on average than the prevailing wage in the relevant counties. KY WINS assessed and trained 2,337 individuals for those jobs at an average cost per trainee that the KCTCS believes is consistent with similar programs in other states. KY WINS is discussing assessment and training projects with six other companies that could produce another 1,200 new jobs in the Commonwealth involving the assessment of some 3,200 job applicants.

Another cornerstone of the KCTCS' September 27, 1999, proposal was that workers would learn transferable skills set to national or state standards and that earned workplace credentials could also be applied toward academic credit at the KCTCS. Progress has been made in both areas. For example, one of the pilot projects used a teamwork module based on the U.S. Secretary of Labor's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) competencies, and the KCTCS is developing a "lean manufacturing" certification system based on SCANS competencies. Effective July 1, 2000, the KCTCS is providing academic credit, upon course-by-course evaluation, for satisfactory completion of its workforce training courses.

The college-initiated workforce development and educational programs generated great interest at the campuses. The KCTCS office received 88 proposals totaling \$13 million for the \$3.5 million funding available and selected 27 projects. Twelve community and 12 technical colleges participated, as did Lexington Community College, the University of Kentucky, and Midway College; eight of the selected projects were joint efforts. The KCTCS office gave priority to projects that used distance technology, that used customized and any time-any place delivery, that focused on entry or re-entry into the workforce, and that created partnerships with business and labor. The KCTCS was particularly interested in projects that might have statewide application.

The KCTCS had to develop a new information technology system when the community and technical colleges left the University of Kentucky and state government systems, respectively. The KCTCS used \$4 million of the 1998-2000 Workforce Development Trust Fund money to partially fund the implementation of fundamental administrative operating systems. It also used \$500,000 of the trust fund money to acquire and implement a software system to administer its systemwide fundraising (advancement) efforts.